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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

for the

Y E A R E N D I N G

31st D E C E M B E R, 1 9 4 8.

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BILLESDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1948.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, I deal briefly in this report with matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	49,728
Registrar General's estimate of population ...	7,491
Number of inhabited houses	2,515
Rateable value	£33, 540
Sum represented by penny rate	£ 131

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Males.	Females.	Totals.
Births -	Legitimate	74	65	139
	Illegitimate	7	4	11
		81	69	150

	Rate for District	Rate for England & Wales.
Birth Rate	20.2	19.2
Death Rate	10.2	10.7
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	33	32

These statistics are very satisfactory, and provide evidence that the health of the district has been good throughout the year. The low Infant Mortality Rate is a tribute to the Maternity and Child Welfare Work which has been carried out.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males	Females
Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	1	1
Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus	1	-
Cancer of uterus	-	1
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	1	-
Cancer of the breast	-	3
Cancer of all other sites	9	6
Diabetes	1	-
Intracranial vascular lesions	3	5
Heart diseases	10	7
Other disorders of circulatory system	1	1
Bronchitis	1	1
Pneumonia	3	2
Other respiratory diseases	1	-
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	-
Appendicitis	1	-
Other digestive disorders	1	2
Nephritis	1	1
Congenital malformation, birth injury, infant diseases		
Road traffic accident	1	1
Other violent causes	1	-
All other causes	2	2
	42	34

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year.

Disease.	Total cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Pneumonia	1	-	5
Scarlet Fever	31	15	-
Measles	45	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-

AGE GROUPS

DISEASE	Under 1	1/2	2/3	3/4	4/5	5/10	10/15	15/20	20/35	35/45	45/65	65 and over
Pneumonia						1						
Scarlet Fever		1	2	2	3	17	5		1			
Measles	1	3	8	7	6	20						
Whooping Cough						1						
Erysipelas									1			1

Scarlet Fever continues to be of a mild type, many of the cases having very slight symptoms. These cases, however, pass on the infection.

Some of the measles cases are undoubtedly fairly severe.

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and mortality during 1948.

AGE GROUPS	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pul.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
25 - 35	4	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

An examination of the case records of new notifications showed that the disease had been contracted prior to residence in this district.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the first half of the year 53 children under 5 were immunised. 26 children were given a "Boosting" dose.

Our scheme has had very satisfactory results; records show that over 80% of the "under fives" were treated. This is a very fine achievement in a district where the population is so scattered and distances to travel are considerable.

SCABIES

5 cases were treated during the first half of the year. The Clinic at Thurnby Grange was closed on July 5th, 1948, and the responsibility for the treatment of this disease has now passed to the Regional Hospital Board.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health - J.Young, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Camb.

The Medical Officer of Health acts for the Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Districts in which this District is included.

Sanitary Inspector - A.E. Sweeting, Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's Examination Joint Board. Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. Member of the Sanitary Inspector's Association.

The Sanitary Inspector is also Surveyor and is a whole time officer.

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES

The following examinations from your area were carried out during the year in the County Laboratory, Leicester:-

Water	41
Milk	206

also, the under-noted examinations were made at the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Isolation Hospital, Groby Road, Leicester:-

Throat swab	8
Nose swab	4
Naso-pharyngeal swabs	2

3. HOSPITALS SERVING THE DISTRICT

Tuberculosis ...	Sanatorium & Isolation Hospital, Markfield.
Infectious diseases	Sanatorium and Isolation Hospital, Markfield.
	Isolation Hospital, Blaby.

4. MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE CENTRE

Houghton-on-the-Hill.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER.

During the year, 28 samples of drinking water were taken from wells for bacteriological examination. Five of these proved to be suitable drinking water whilst the remainder were unsatisfactory. In two instances, as a mains supply was available, the wells were closed and a piped supply laid on.

With regard to the remaining cases, as there was no alternative supply available, the users were advised to boil the water and in five instances the wells were cleansed.

The progress made with regard to schemes for supplying mains water in various parts of the district is as follows:-

Tilton, Frisby, Gaulby, King's Norton and Carlton Curlieu	These schemes have been completed.
Keyham & Skeffington	The schemes for the provision of a piped supply to each of these villages has been approved and it is expected the work will be commenced very soon.
Cold Newton & Lowesby.	Schemes for these villages have been prepared and are being considered at the present time.

Water shortage. During the year the only known shortages of water were on two private estates at Cold Newton and Ingarsby.

Number of cases in which piped supply was substituted for well water 139

2. DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE

The number of cesspools in the District at the end of 1948 was 497 and during the year some 4000 emptyings were carried out.

Over 100 inspections were made of sewers and outfall dykes. Where the sewers were found to be fractured or choked, immediate repairs were carried out. All outfall ditches receiving effluent were cleansed.

During the year all sewers, tanks and dykes receiving effluent were treated on two occasions to prevent infestation by rats.

A tender for the provision of sewers and installation of disposal works for Great Glen and Burton Overy has been accepted and the work will be commenced very soon.

3. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Total number in the District at the end of 1948:-

Privies	117
Pail Closets	1380
Water Closets	885

Number of privies converted to water carriage system during the year 10

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This service, which now includes all the parishes in the area, is working satisfactorily and very few justifiable complaints were received during the year.

Nightsoil and the contents of cesspools are disposed of on agricultural land whilst household refuse is dealt with by controlled tipping.

5. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The particulars given under this Heading are for all purposes including those given elsewhere in this Report:-

Total number of complaints received	239
Total number of defects or nuisances discovered	233

Nature of inspections:

	Inspected.	Re-inspected.
Animal Keeping	1	1
Bakehouses	4	-
Dairies & Cowsheds	119	18
Drainage Works	58	32
Dwelling Houses	321	315
Food premises	7	2
Rats & Mice	2	-
Refuse Collection	63	-
Schools	4	-
Shops	8	3
Slaughter Houses & Meat Inspection	2	-
Tents, vans, sheds	5	3
Verminous premises & scabies ...	1	3
Water supplies	136	30
Workshops, etc.	27	5
Visits re infectious diseases	13	-
Miscellaneous	109	-
	880	412

N O T I C E S

Preliminary.	Housing.	Other.
Outstanding on 1st January, 1948	-	11
Issued during the year	20	58
Complied with during year	18	69
Statutory action necessary	-	-
Outstanding 31st December, 1948 ...	2	-

Statutory.	Housing	Other.
Outstanding 1st January, 1948	3	-
Issued during year	-	-
Complied with during year	3	-
Outstanding 31st December, 1948 ...	-	-

H O U S I N G

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(i) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 288

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 510

(ii) (a) Number of dwelling houses included under sub-head (i) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ... ... Nil

(iii) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ... Nil

(iv) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 166

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers
Number rendered fit by Owners. } 162

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

Number of Notices served ... ... Nil.

4. THURNEY CAMP.

Despite the efforts of the Council to make the huts reasonably fit for occupation by laying on water, drainage, fixing of cooking ranges and other improvements, it is disappointing to see the amount of damage done by some of the occupants. There is also evidence that many of the huts are deteriorating and will rapidly become worn out.

When a poor hut becomes vacant, it has been agreed with the Ministry of Health that it should not be re-let and steps are taken to render it unsuitable for occupation.

5. INFESTATION.

No premises were found to be infested with bed bugs during the year. In view of the type of tenant selected for our new Council Houses, preventive treatment is not considered necessary.

6. CAMPING SITES. There are no Camping Sites in the area. The Council did agree however to the issue of a licence for the siting and occupation, by two agricultural workers, of one caravan.

7. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON HOUSING IN THE DISTRICT.

We do not condemn houses for the time being owing to the general housing shortage. The result of this policy is an increase in the amount of repair work which is necessary. In the main only urgent and necessary repairs are asked for, and are dealt with informally.

The time must soon come when some of the very old dilapidated property will have to be pulled down.

8. ERECTION OF HOUSES BY LOCAL AUTHORITY.

20 houses at Great Glen, 24 at Billesdon, 10 at Houghton, 12 at Tilton and 12 Swedish Houses have been erected.

In addition 12 houses are in course of erection at Hungarton. Sites have been earmarked or selected in 12 parishes for the erection of further houses.

The provision of new houses is a most important factor affecting the health and happiness of the people in these post war years, and here the Billesdon Council is obviously progressive in outlook.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. MILK SUPPLY.

	Cowkeepers.	Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk other than Cowkeepers.
Number on the Register	186	61
Number of contraventions outstanding from previous year	-	-
Number of contraventions found during the year	1	-
Number of contraventions remedied during the year	1	-
Number of contraventions outstanding 31st December	-	-

10 Samples were taken during the year, and all were Grade 1 standard - Satisfactory.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS 1936-1946.
No licences were issued under this heading during the year. The bulk of this work is, of course, carried out by the County Council.

2. MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

During the year 225 lbs. of beef meat was condemned as being unfit for human food.
A 25 lb. tin of dried milk was also condemned.

RODENT CONTROL.

All sewers, sewer dykes, sewage tanks and refuse tips in the area were given two treatments during the year. The few complaints with respect to rats on private properties were investigated and where help and advice was needed, this was given.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

JOHN YOUNG.

Medical Officer of Health.

10, High Street,
Melton Mowbray.